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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE: 25X1A

SUBJECT Labor Draft for Mining Operations in Saxony

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. XX July 1947

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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

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1. [REDACTED]

Order of the SMAD for Land Sachsen, 15,900 physically fit men - preferably those with mining experience - are to be drafted for several years' work in ore mining operations. Of this total, 10,000 men are to be furnished by industry, crafts, and other trades; 5,900 are to be drawn from resettlement camps and the unemployed. No workers are to be drafted from firms working on reparations. The men will be hired by German firms under Russian supervision. No former Nazi Party members will be taken. These laborers are to be drafted in Saxony only.

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2. The 15,900 men will work in a wide area south and southeast of Aue (K53). They will be housed in temporary shelters. Production of existing mines is to be increased and new sites will be opened.

3. During a Central Administration conference held in Berlin on 14 May, (fnu) Danilov, deputy chief of the Department "Arbeitskraft" in the SMAD, stated that the above order was to receive priority.

4. Of the approximately 11,300 men supplied up to the present time, more than 3,000 have already fled to the western zones.

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Comment: A report covering the period 9 April to 25 May estimated that approximately 20,000 persons are engaged in mining in the Erzgebirge region. There are indications that many of them are called up for three months' work (evasion of service is punished by a three months' jail sentence, [REDACTED]). It is not known whether or not the 15,900 men described above are long-term replacements aimed at providing a core around which temporary draftees may be assembled. [REDACTED] above, leaving the reference to 3,000 escapees somewhat obscure. In Paragraph 1, the restriction of the draft to Saxony may be true, but [REDACTED] persons in Thuringia and Mark Brandenburg were called up for mining service between 20 and 25 May.

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5. Political undesirables have been the first to be drafted for mine labor in Kamenz (A41). [redacted] local SED units submit the names of such "undesirables" to the labor office, at the same time classifying them as "unwilling to work". These people must then be examined by a Russian Army physician who is said to be generous in reclassifying them as "fit for work". Up to the middle of May, the shipment of Kamenz draftees was supervised by German police, but so many of them escaped that Russian guards have been added.

6. Labor draftees questioned while abroad train in Dresden stated that they believed they would be put to work somewhere near that city. Some unconfirmed reports state that the Russians have started to examine the area around Eisenberg (A10) for pitchblende deposits.

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- 25X1A [redacted] Comment: [redacted] the information in Paragraphs 5 and 6 believes that Schmeckwitz (A41) may be of eventual interest to the Russians, although the Germans considered pitchblende deposits there too small to warrant mining operations.

7. Over 1,000 labor draftees from Saxony - locksmiths, carpenters, and former Wehrmacht engineers - have been sent to the Frankfurt/Oder area, where they are to construct large temporary bridges. This [redacted] says that these men have not yet been able to communicate with their families. [redacted] states that the draft in Saxony covers the year classes 1902 to 1931.

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